Norms for carrying minimum passengers in IA *flights*

945. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Family trio enjoys Chartered IA flight" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 19th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether a three member family enjoyed a charter flight from Calcutta to New Delhi on 17th June, 2000;

(c) whether the total loss incurred by IA for the running of this particular flight have been *assessed;*

(d) if *so,* the details thereof and whether any norms of minimum passengers are considered before taking off any particular flight; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Indian Airlines flight IC-402 (A-300) of 16th June, 2000 was delayed due *to* operational *reasons.* It operated/departed at 0115 hours on 17th June, 2000 with three passengers on board. The aircraft was required to be positioned in Delhi for scheduled operations on the morning of 17th June, 2000. The cash cost of operation of this flight from Calcutta to Delhi works out to Rs. 5.50 lakhs. As a general principle, Indian Airlines does not resort to cancellation of flights on account *oi* loads, in order to maintain schedule integrity. However, on rare occasions, Indian Airlines has adopted a judicious approach with regard to combining/cancellation of flights due to poor loads. Efforts are made to the maximum *extent* possible to avoid inconvenience to passengers due to cancellation/ combining of scheduled services by either rerouting, providing alternate flights or hotel accommodation and subsequently providing seats on *the next possible* flights to their destinations.